

by fall-out from this matter, especially if it results in the return of communism to Russia. This would be bad for America and for the world.

I believe we must quickly do something here. I respectfully submit these recommendations and will do anything I can to help. If I can persuade you on this matter, I will come over on a moments notice.

Please act, Mr. President. Thank you and best regards.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF
Member of Congress.

REPORT: RUSSIAN 'COPTERS ATTACK CHECHEN TOWN

MOSCOW.—Russian helicopter gunships attacked rebel positions in the Chechen town of Shali on Thursday, a day after slain separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev was buried.

General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, commander of Russian forces in Chechnya, told Interfax news agency that the gunships had made two "pinpoint strikes" on guerrilla positions in Shali, about 25 miles southeast of the regional capital Grozny.

The attacks were in response to rebel fighters firing on Wednesday at Russian helicopters which flew over Shali on a reconnaissance mission, he said.

Interfax said civilians had been killed and wounded in the attacks, though it gave no casualty figure.

It said seven people were killed when Russian ground forces opened fire on a civilian convoy trying to flee the town which had been sealed off by Russian troops in six days.

A Shali police official, quoted by Interfax, said the Russian attacks had caused considerable destruction. "People have been killed and wounded," he said.

The renewed Russian air raids followed the death of Dudayev last Sunday in a rocket attack from the air at Gekhi-Chu, about 20 miles south-west of Grozny, as he stood in an open field speaking by satellite telephone.

Dudayev, '52, unchallenged leader of the rebellion against Russian rule, was buried on Wednesday at a secret location in the south of the territory.

Russian military involvement in killing Dudayev, to whom President Boris Yeltsin had offered indirect talks to end the 16-month conflict, was mired in controversy.

Tikhomirov was quoted by Interfax as saying his troops had not conducted any special operation to assassinate Dudayev.

But an Interior Ministry source said on Wednesday he had been killed in retribution for an ambush last week in which Chechen fighters killed up to 90 Russian soldiers.

In a more detailed report, Interfax quoted another source as saying Dudayev had been deliberately targeted by a rocket fired from the air which homed in on him by following the signal of his satellite telephone.

This source said it was the fifth attempt in the past two or three months to destroy Dudayev by this means.

The first four had failed, the source said, because the Chechen leader ended his telephone conversation before the rockets could target him.

Tikhomirov called the report of retribution "madness and an attempt to pass on to the federal troops the blame for a possible disruption of a peace settlement in Chechnya."

He said his forces had stuck to Yeltsin's order to halt military operations and only responded to rebel attacks.

Yeltsin ordered troops into Chechnya in December 1994 to crush its independence drive.

Over 30,000 people, mostly civilians, are believed to have died and Yeltsin is trying to

end the conflict to boost his chances of winning a second term as president in a June poll.

He unveiled a peace plan on March 31 which included a halt to Russia's military offensive, partial withdrawal of troops and indirect talks with Dudayev. But the plan allowed "special operations against terrorists."

It was not clear how the killing of Dudayev and his replacement by Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, a hardline pro-independence ideologist, could affect peace efforts.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 7, 1996.

Hon. WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I am, once again, writing to point out that conditions for the men, women and children in Chechnya continue to deteriorate as hopelessness and hatred battle one another. Did you see the enclosed Washington Times piece reporting the views of Duma Member, Mr. Aoushev, who is also the deputy chairman of their parliament's national security committee? He makes several thoughtful points which should give us pause about a "see nothing—do nothing" policy.

He notes: military action could spread from Chechnya to next door neighbor Ingushetia. Not only would this bring senseless killing, destruction, and misery to a new region that is, today, relatively tranquil, it would deny an existing haven to many Chechens who have fled from the daily terrors of their homeland. When I recently visited that region, I went to an Ingushetian refugee camp for Chechens, mostly women, children and the aged. They do not need another turn in a war zone.

The conflict in Chechnya will not continue at its present level. It cannot get better so it will only become worse. Not only will pain and suffering intensify with continued fighting but the opportunity for reconciliation or consensual peace will recede further into the realm of the improbable.

The Clinton Administration (Mr. Aoushev's term) is ignoring human rights violations by Russian military and has not done enough to use its influence to end the conflict.

I hope you will consider what Mr. Aoushev has to say and I reiterate my earlier and often made suggestion that you should offer to both sides an American negotiator of principle and stature whose task is to urge and prod the parties to this senseless conflict to stop it. How could it hurt? It might help. Continuing to do nothing is to accept or even to encourage more inhumane acts on helpless people.

Please work to stop this senselessness. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HONORING MOTHERS AND WOULD-BE MOTHERS ON MOTHER'S DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, we will celebrate Mother's Day.

As a grandmother and mother, each year I look forward to this special day, this honored celebration.

But, Mother's Day is not just about fancy flowers, fruit baskets and pretty greeting cards.

Mother's Day is not about colorful scarves, chocolate candy or an evening out.

Mother's Day is about family and the role of women in the family.

Mother's Day is about respect, dignity and self-esteem—the same qualities that come from having a job, working at a decent and fair wage and making a contribution.

Mother's Day is not only about reverence, but it is also not about ridicule and contempt.

Mothers are ridiculed and held in contempt when women workers are not paid a decent and fair wage and when Congress tries to cut programs for women.

Yet, mothers and would-be-mothers are being ridiculed and held in contempt by a Congress that does not seem to care.

It would appear that our colleagues did not listen or perhaps did not hear during consideration of the fiscal year 1996 budget.

On Medicare, Medicaid, education funding, the earned income tax credit and other areas, they are proposing the same kind of cuts this time that were rejected last time.

Yet, while proposing these cuts—many of which were vetoed by the President—our colleagues on the right want to give tax breaks amounting to \$176 billion, including a capital gains tax cut for the wealthiest Americans.

And, while proposing a tax cut for the wealthy, they are opposing a wage increase for the lowest income workers.

There are 117,000 workers in the State of North Carolina working at or below the Federal minimum wage.

Who are they?

They are primarily adults.

More than 7 out of 10 of all minimum wage workers are adults over the age of 20.

Also, they are primarily women.

More than 6 out of 10 of all minimum-wage workers are female.

And, of great significance to my State, they are primarily from rural communities.

It is twice as likely that a minimum wage worker will be from a rural community than from an urban community.

But, even more disturbingly, as we are poised to pause and celebrate Mother's Day, almost 4 out of 10 of all minimum wage workers are the sole wage earner in a family.

Single, female heads of households make up a large part of the minimum wage work force.

As a result, 58 percent of all poor children come from families whose parent or parents who work full time.

Twelve million minimum wage workers in America; most of them are women, many with children.

Mother's Day is about food on the table, a roof over one's head, money to pay the doctor and money to get to the doctor's office.

Mother's Day is about a warm place to sleep in winter and a safe place in summer, clean clothing to wear and comfortable shoes with which to walk.

To those who oppose a modest increase in the minimum wage, I would say, if you truly want to honor and pay tribute to mothers, allow them to earn extra pay for a year's work, an amount that you earn in a few days time.

An increase of 90 cents in the minimum wage is an additional \$1800 for a minimum-wage worker. That modest increase could mean a livable wage to those mothers.

A livable wage is the best incentive to encourage work over welfare.

When a woman works, she has self-respect.

When a woman has a job, she has pride.

When a woman earns a wage that allows her to live and to help support her family, she has dignity.

This week, Congress could have made Mother's Day 1996 a day to remember.

Congress could have given millions of America's women the self-respect, pride and dignity they deserve on Mother's day.

Congress could have increased the minimum wage this week.

That's what Mother's Day is about.

On Sunday, we celebrate Mother's Day.

But, Mother's Day is not about honoring women one day out of the year.

Mother's Day is about honoring women 365 days each year.

I invite each of my colleagues to join this grandmother and mother in making sure that we observe Mother's Day, every day.

□ 1430

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. METCALF). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MCINTOSH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. PALLONE address the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

WHITE HOUSE CLAIM OF EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with no sense of pride, with actually a sense of trepidation to a certain degree, because I want to talk about something that has been happening and developing over the last year, actually,

which culminated yesterday in a vote in the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight on some of the actions taken by this administration by the committee.

I think the American people need to understand what has happened and why. Yesterday the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight voted out a resolution to hold several high ranking members of this White House in contempt of Congress. This is an action which has happened only a handful of times in this century. I do not think anyone who serves on that committee wanted to see events lead to that.

But I think that the people need to understand and I think the Members need to understand how patient Chairman CLINGER and the committee have been with the administration in terms of getting to the bottom of this matter, and I am referring to the White House Travel Office and the scandal that has surrounded that issue since 6 innocent Federal employees were terminated and ultimately humiliated in public for actions which they were later found to be not guilty of.

The story is a seamy story that involves abuse of power. It probably involves the abuse of the FBI, the IRS, and perhaps even the Justice Department. All we really want to do is get the facts and all of the documents out on the table and try to bring this matter to a final conclusion.

Chairman CLINGER has been after this for over 3 years. In fact, after finally saying that, after hearing again and again that the White House would cooperate, the committee issued a subpoena back in January, and let me just read for you what some of the President's words were and what some of the actions have been. And not only in our words, because I think now that folks on the other side of the aisle are framing this only as a partisan political witchhunt. Frankly, I think most of us would have preferred to have this whole matter put behind us many months ago.

But early on in this investigation the President said, and I quote, "the Attorney General is in the process of reviewing any matters related to the travel office and you can be assured that the Attorney General will have the administration's full cooperation in investigating those matters which the department wishes to review."

That is a letter that the President sent to the former chairman of the Government Operations Committee. Here is what he said just this year in January, January 12, 1996, he said, and I quote, "We have told everybody, we are in the cooperation business. That is what we want to do. We want to get this over with."

That is what the President said in January. But I think people need to compare that with what has actually happened. Not what I am saying, not what Republican staffers are saying, but, for example, here is what Nancy Kingsbury of the General Accounting

Office said, July 2, 1993, when she testified before our committee. She said, and I quote "As a practical matter, we depend on and usually receive the candor and cooperation of agency officials and other important parties and have access to all their records. In candor, I can't say that there was quite the generous outpouring of cooperation in this case as might have been desirable."

Let me just read a quote from Michael Shaheen, who heads the Office of Professional Responsibility for the President's own Justice Department, when he learned that there was a notebook that had been concealed for over 2 years that Vince Foster had put together that had extensive notes on the whole White House travel office affair. This is what Mr. Shaheen said, and I quote, "We were stunned to learn of the existence of this document since it so obviously bears directly upon the inquiry we were directed to undertake in late July and August of 1993. We believe that our repeated requests to the White House personnel and counsel for any information that could shed light on Mr. Foster's statement regarding the FBI clearly covered the notebook and that even a minimum level of cooperation by the White House should have resulted in its disclosure to us at the outset of our investigation."

Again, that is not a Republican staffer saying that. That is somebody from Clinton's own Justice Department.

Later on one of the other officials that testified before us, Jack Keeney, who is reporting to the Acting Criminal Division Director, he said, and I quote, "At this point we are not confident that the White House has produced to us all the documents in its possession relating to the Thomason allegations. The White House's incomplete production greatly concerns us because the integrity of our review is entirely dependent upon our securing all relevant documents."

Mr. Speaker, let me close by saying this: Seldom in the course of American history have so many in the White House done so much to provide so little. Sunshine is the best antiseptic. Let us get all the documents on the table and let us get this matter behind us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. VOLKMER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]